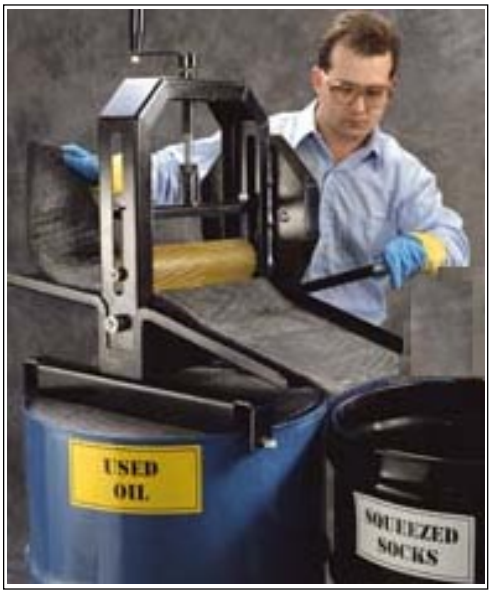
Navy Environmental Quality Fact Sheet

Do you use dry sweep or absorbent materials to clean up fluid spills?

Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- ***Meeting environmental compliance regulations*** -- Reduce disposal of used absorbent materials. Regulatory areas include RCRA.
- ***Improving workers' safety and health*** - No change from current operations.
- ***Increasing productivity*** -- No change from current operations.
- ***Saving money*** -- Reduce the procurement and disposal costs of absorbents.



Absorbent Pad Wringer
(Photo Courtesy New Pig Corp)

Many installations use dry sweep and shop rags for operational spill clean-up. Synthetic pad or mat type absorbents are a commonly used alternative to dry sweep and shop rags. The pads and mats can be used with the Absorbent Pad Wringer, a heavy-duty, manually operated, wringing system for removing fluids from absorbent pads. The pads can then be reused after fluid removal. A 12" wide throat adjusts from 0" to 2" height, which allows the wringing of various size absorbent pads, socks, mats, skimmers, and booms. Polyurethane grip rollers provide a non-slip surface that prevents spinning, and channels fluids away from the absorbent pad and into the collection drum. The wringer mounts on drum heads of various diameters. The fluid can then be reused, recycled, or disposed of separately from the solids. Absorbent Pad Wringers are being used successfully at several Navy installations including NAVSTA Ingleside, NAS Miramar and COMNAVBASE Norfolk. ***This equipment is available through the Navy Pollution Prevention Equipment Program (PPEP).***

How can you achieve these improvements?

Use Reusable Synthetic Absorbent Materials and an Absorbent Pad Wringer.

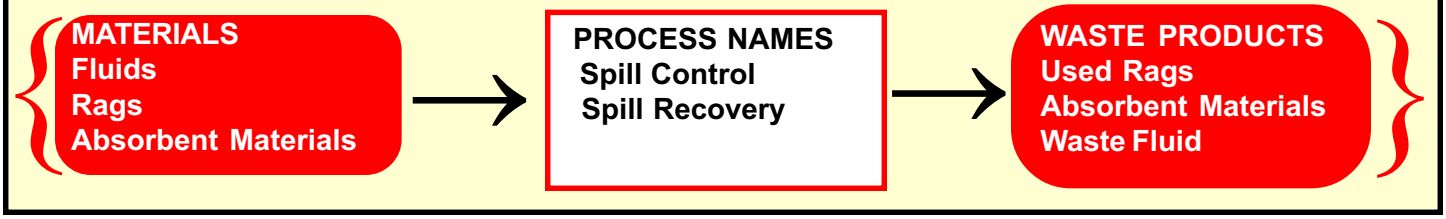
How does this equipment work?

An Absorbent Pad Wringer is used to remove fluids from absorbent pads, thereby enabling the pads to be reused and the fluid to be recycled.

How will this equipment save you money?

Procurement of new absorbent will be reduced. Disposal costs of used absorbent will be reduced. The cost to implement is approximately $750 and the equipment typically pays for itself in less than a year

Typical Process Flow Diagram



How can this technology eliminate or reduce pollution?

Implementation of this P2 method will result in the following pollution reductions:

- Reduction of Disposal of Used Rags/Absorbent Materials as Solid and/or Hazardous Waste.
- Dramatic Reduction in the Disposal of Used Oils.
- Permits Recovery of up to 90% of the Spilled Liquids for Recycle.

Which shops can benefit most from this technology?

This technology can be used in the following shops:

- Mechanical Systems Maintenance
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Shipboard Operations
- Aircraft Maintenance

Take action: How can you implement this technology?

- **Activity Shop & Work Center Personnel**. Contact your Pollution Prevention Program Manager. The P2 Program Manager can provide more information and conduct a more detailed analysis, and may be able to provide this equipment at no cost to a Shop or Work Center.
- **Activity Pollution Prevention Manager**. Request this equipment through the Navy P2 Equipment Program (PPEP). Depending on the application, the Environmental Program Requirements Cookbook may contain project submission information for annual budget requests sent to your claimant.
- **For Additional Technical Information**. More information about this technology can be found in the PPEP Book (Web: http://www.lakehurst.navy.mil/p2/index.htm).

Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by implementing pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This Fact Sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to implement pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

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